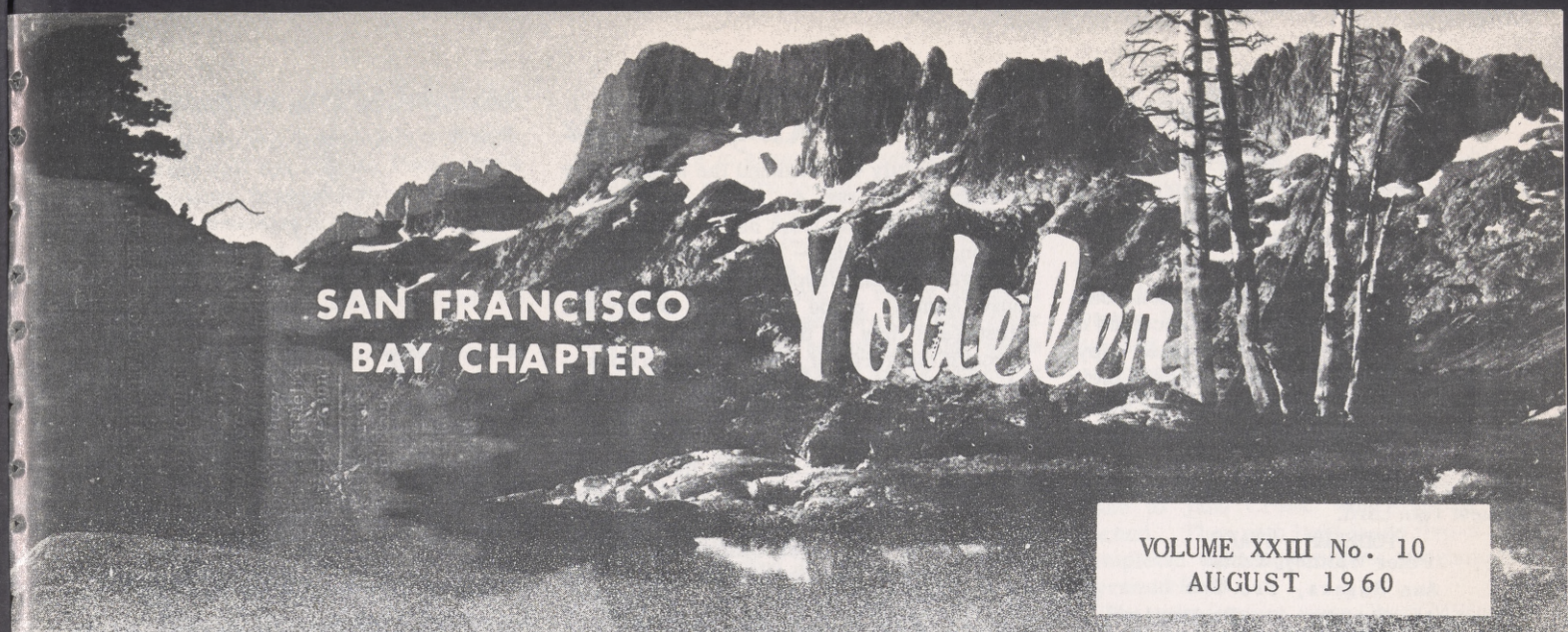

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

Yodeler

VOLUME XXIII No. 10
AUGUST 1960

NSS Storms Fort Ross

Seventeen persons camped in a natural clearing in the woods about two miles from Fort Ross Saturday and Sunday nights, July 2-4, enjoying peace and quiet in woodland surroundings, with trees to protect them from cool Pacific breezes and sunshine to warm them.

Sunday morning Fort Ross State Historical Monument Supervisor led the group on a nature walk through the Kruse Rhododendron Reserve State Park, pointing out an osprey nest that has been occupied for several years and explaining the condition of the forest with its threat of overshadowing the rhododendrons.

On July 4th many of the group attended the Independence Day Services held in the Chapel of Fort Ross by Americans of Russian background from the Holy Trinity Cathedral of San Francisco.

—Alice S. M. McKenzie

Motor Boats in Yellowstone

The National Park Service proposes to keep motorized boats out of the southern arm of Yellowstone Lake, about 10% of the huge lake, and every outboard motor dealer and boater in the country is screaming at them. New hearings have been forced on the Park Service to be held at Cody, Wyoming, on August 23rd. The National Park Service needs your support now. If you like peace and quiet on wilderness lakes, write immediately to the Secretary of the Interior at Washington expressing your support of this proposal.

We quote a letter from Superintendent of Yellowstone National Parks: "The issue has become one of national significance. The opposition remains vigorous and vociferous, challenging the very principle of wilderness preservation and management as well as the authority of the Secretary to establish such regulatory measures within the national parks." —C.M.C.

Local Boys Attempt Rainier

No one remembers how it all got started, but four Bay Chapter members went to climb Mt. Rainier on the Fourth of July weekend. Bob Berges left early by bus with half of our 200 pounds of "expedition gear." Ike Eikrem, Rex Smith, and I left Friday after work by DC-8 jet. We were quite a sight as we hiked into the air terminal: one Kelty, one Trailwise, one day pack, and four ice axes. Ike wore his hiking boots to save weight.

Arriving in Seattle, we rented a compact car and, after careful arrangement, got all four people and gear inside. A short, pleasant ride brought us to the end of the road at White River camp, 4500 ft. elevation. Saturday we moved our gear up to 9500 ft. and Sunday at 1 AM we started for the summit (14410 ft.).

Regretably, Bob's crampons came apart and no amount of repair would hold them together. He was forced to turn back. We three re-roped and soon caught up with the 57 climbers who were ahead. We had no trouble with the route—just follow the crowd! Six clubs were on the mountain that day. All the others were from Washington and Oregon and they were quite interested and pleased to see Californians on that beautiful mountain. The crevasses were small and easily crossed. The weather was clear and cool. I had some difficulty before reaching the top, but my friends were as lively as Nut Crackers.

We returned to our base camp that afternoon—sinking up to our knees as we crossed some of the sun-softened snow bridges. Monday we quickly slid down to our car and, after touring Seattle and almost losing our plane reservations, we flew home again. Our feelings are that although the cost was high, there is ample time for this climb on a three-day weekend—and the rewards are great. —R.W. Hackamack

Last Dog on Earth in Daze

The fog was curling menacingly around Mills Tower and we could not see to the next building, let alone observe whether Sirius were really rising with the sun. But it was obvious that the dog days were upon the land and their effect was felt on almost all chapter members.

For, although there were over 33 chapter outings in July there was only one write-up in the Yodeler box. And though most leaders or co-leaders had phone numbers listed — well, as we noted above: dog days.

We sat in our favorite meditative pose (feet propped in a bottom drawer) and thought of Editor Peter Whitney off on a cool river. His letter, encouraging us to pinch-hit for him, and using every psychological device to boost our ego, had noted he simply had to be away for this issue's work nights.

"Call Lou Elliott," he'd instructed us the preceding week. "He has a good mountaineering article we've long considered running —lots of pictures, too."

We called. Lou didn't answer, and neither did the cat or dog or canary bird. And we looked out into the fog and saw the shadow of dark pine and smelled the smoke from the evening fire and heard the wind, the stream, and the little night animals.

"Let's talk to Cicely Christy," someone suggested. "She always has stacks of conservation information, and this would be a swell opportunity for her." And for us, too, we thought.

And the dog days had Cicely too. We thought of her suntanned face and heard the scrunch of granite under our boots and saw the burro's hooves pick their way among the stones in a little choreography not written by man.

"We could always do a takeoff on 'The Last Man on Earth' — if we could figure out how to go about it."

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Sierra Club Yodeler

A publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to Yodeleditor, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

As a service to club members non-commercial classified ads will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line. Check must accompany copy.

Commercial advertising is solicited. Please request rate card.

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VOLUME XXIII NO. 10
August 1960

Social Notes from the River

July as usual had ideal weather for river touring with mild nights and hot days to make it a pleasure to wade in cold water and to be splashed or even dunked in the rapids. The Feather river was at its bouncing best on July 9-10 and Earl Oliver discovered he could eskimo roll in the rapids of the gorge. For some reason our women failed to turn out for the first day of this trip and Barbara Tilden said she felt like Joan of Arc leading eight men down the river. The Mokelumne trip on July 16-17 was a good one for practice and playing in boats and the blackberries were ripe. The water level which is controlled by a dam in response to irrigation needs was at high level at a convenient time for boating although not so convenient for trusting persons who left things to cool at the water's edge.

While Bryce Whitmore was on his way to the July 4th weekend at the Kings River, his house in El Sobrante caught fire from an unknown cause and burned completely. In addition to our sympathy with Bryce's loss the section regrets the loss of the excellent river films which he has taken through the years and has often shown at our meetings. More cheerful news comes with the publication of Peter Whitney's book and with the news of another "old-timer" planning to marry. This time it is Earl Oliver. He and Fay Conlee will marry in Mississippi and Earl will be teaching next year at the University of New Mexico.

—M.S.

Kayaks Conquer Kings Gorge

On the July 4th weekend the Kings River beckoned and two or three dozen river tourers — ranging from beginners to international champions — responded.

Roger Paris, Bryce Whitmore and Maynard Munger made what was surely the first (and may be the last) trip by kayak through the gorge of the Kings from Horseshoe Bend, 15 miles to near Pine Flat Reservoir. Described earlier as "Delightfully boatable class 3 and 4 rapids" this run was later described by the three as "A series of class 5 rapids, class 6 rockpiles and waterfalls, and uncountable portages over the most difficult terrain." They enjoyed blue cheese for supper and sleeping on the sand, to come in tired at the end of the second day. They are glad they made the run, but wouldn't repeat it.

Meanwhile, the rest of us enjoyed boating above and below Pine Flat Reservoir. The water was clear and sparkling, but a bit "thin", so that rock-dodging was the sport of the day. A few of us went to Cedar Grove to inspect the cascades along the highway that had been mistakenly described as boatable. Up in Zumwalt Meadow kayaking and hiking were delightful.

—Glenn Gaumer

Stop the Presses

Due to unforeseen circumstances the date of the Bay Area Ski Federation Water Ski Carnival has been changed to August 6-7. Don't miss this chance to meet your fellow skiers.

If you have a boat and skis, bring them along to the Donner Lake Lodge on Highway #40; the gas and oil will be furnished. The cost to each skier will be in the neighborhood of a doller for three rides.

After skiing on Saturday there will be a progressive dinner which will be served by the participating clubs who have lodges on Donner Summit. The dinner will be $2.50 per person. The main course is in the very capable hands of Diane Clayton at the Sierra Club.

Come one come all to the Summer Ski Carnival. For further information contact Don Huber, 145 Hillcrest Avenue, Kentfield.

Adv.

DRIED EGGS bargain! Needs of summer knapsack trips were overestimated. Surplus dried egg solids (the best brand) is offered to members at cost. Contact Dave Perkins THornwall 5-4255 eves.

4 x 5 View Camera, case, film holders, developing tank. Good condition. Very reasonable. E.M. Richardson, Box 638, Jackson, Calif.

FOR SALE: TWO SLEEPING BAGS, GOOD AS NEW, HALF PRICE. ONE DACRON WITH LINER. ONE DOWN-FILLED ARCTIC WITH MUMMY BAG. CALL BEACON 2-3631.

Gourmet in Greensward

A decided taste for spices and herbs can lead the camp chef into the let's-take-a-little-bit-of-everything-just-in-case trap. Victims of this pitfall are easily identified, for their packsacks reverberate with the clink of seasoning vials and there is an aroma of herbs and spices forever about them.

Prepackaging camp meals at home does away with much of this sound and savor, and the confusion of locating various ingredients that invariably distribute themselves through the pack.

The method: plan each meal as a unit; measure and package in plastic bags; include menu and directions in each bag; pack the bags in the packsack in the order of eating.

Here is a suggested dinner menu for two:

Vegetable-onion Soup
New Orleans Shrimp and Rice
Fruit Compote
Coffee, Tea or Cocoa

Vegetable-onion Soup: Dump 1/2 package dehydrated onion soup and 1/2 package vegetable-noodle soup into a plastic bag. Add a pinch of thyme and any necessary directions. Fasten bag and label.

New Orleans Shrimp and Rice: Measure 2 tablespoons each of dehydrated tomato and green pepper flakes, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon parsley flakes, and a pinch each of mace, thyme, and nutmeg. Add a small piece of bay leaf. Put in a plastic bag and pack with 1/4 package pre-cooked rice, 1 can shrimp and 1/2 package dehydrated mushroom soup. At camp, simply simmer the vegetables in 3 cups of water for 15 minutes or so. Add the rice and soup, cover and simmer 10 minutes longer. Drain the shrimp, add to the above and reheat.

Fruit Compote: Weigh 1/2 pound of dried peaches, pears, figs, apples, etc. into a plastic bag and add 2 tablespoons to 1/3 cup sugar (depending on your own taste) and a pinch of any of the following spices: allspice, anise, cinnamon, ginger, or nutmeg. Package with 1/4 pount shelled walnuts and/or almonds. In camp, simmer the compote slowly. Add the nuts just before serving. Unless you're a big fruit eater this should allow for some left-over fruit for breakfast.

And speaking of breakfast, here's my favorite for a cold day. CONTINUED PAGE 4

48 Knapsackers at 4th of July Lake

Our knapsack trip in mid-July to Fourth of July Lake (off Kit Carson Pass) was a pleasant mixture of warm sun, open country, wild flowers, mountain peaks to climb, penny royal tea, swimming, fishing, outdoor banquets, and a most pleasant night under the stars. By having all these choices, we managed not to feel cramped in spite of the large number of people who turned out for this ever-popular trip.

A number of people were first-timers, so, the leader gave a talk in mid-afternoon on how to walk and what makes a good pack. Material was drawn from "Going Light With Backpack and Burro." How to build a fire was included too, but the leader didn't make a very good demonstration of that point. Several qualified leaders were present and aided in supplying examples and answering questions. Profiting from the talks, people seemed to walk out (1100 ft. rise) much easier than they had expected.

—R.W. Hackamack

Junior Sierra Club

Junior Sierra Clubbers, the newest section of the Bay Chapter is busy planning its new fall schedule. As in the past it is the hope of the leaders to offer one activity per month.

Phil Faulconer, Susan Langstroth, and Betty Ann Michener are the guiding hands back of the group.

Activities during the last season included a ski tour, a hike to Drakes Bay, a Desolation Valley knapsack trip and a tour of the Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton.

Betty Ann recommends particularly strongly that all teen age Sierra Clubbers in the Bay Chapter get in touch with the leaders in order to assist with the planning.

She also points out the need for Juniors in other cities besides Berkeley to help with the organization. Finding who the members are in these other communities is difficult, she says, so it makes it hard to inlcude these young members in their plans.

Last Dog (cont.)

"Let's write about the trips we took this summer," brightly.

"I broke my leg in January."

"I'm studying ballroom dancing. Just didn't feel up to clambering over rocks. And a dance floor is a lot smoother."

"I'm not going anywhere. But I'll draw lots of cartoons." This from Elaine Simpson.

"Great. We'll have a cartoon issue. I'll bet the readers who can't read would like that."

Silence.

"I think I'll write about Orion and his dog and how Diana sent them into the heavens."

"What does that have to do with the Sierra Club?"

We swung our feet out of the drawer and rolled fresh paper into the typewriter. "Everything. Just everything. Dog days."

the Meaning of Wilderness

It is safe to assume that readers of this publication require no convincing of the need to preserve our few remaining wilderness areas. Most of us feel that the recreational aspect is more than adequate justification. Not that we wish only to retain as much 'playground' as we can. We can with great reward ski and fish and photograph, watch birds and climb rocks in areas somewhat less virginal. For those of us who go for the less respectable purpose of just being there every evidence of man's interference detracts from the experience of re-creating.

If we are permitted to assume that by virtue of being involved in the life process man is compelled to develop his human potential — feeling life, and knowing and feeling about life, it is vital that we maintain an ecological system which will foster this.

We are rapidly losing the foundation stones of ecological study by our exploitation of natural communities.

In the effort to preserve what remains and to plan for less wasteful economic development where essential, a series of wilderness conferences has been held. The sixth held in March, 1959, is recorded in an impressive book. "The Meaning of Wilderness to Science," edited by Dave Brower. It includes the thinking of such authorities as: Daniel B. Beard, Stanley A. Cain, Luna B. Leopold, Robert Rausch, Ian McTaggert Cowan, Raymond B. Cowles, Frank Fraser Darling, and G. M. Trevelyan.

Here are just a few quotes which may give a sense of the attitude of this conference:

Cowles, P. 82:

"The widespread lack of perception of our inroads against nature . . . . . is even more largely a result of the fact that the environmental changes during a year, or even several years, are like the evidence of human decay: almost imperceptible to those who have never left their aging friends. Change is creeping, but it is remorseless, and since man in numbers is the cause of these changes in our wild life and our lands, and since he will apparently increase his numbers to maximum levels. The rate of his occupation and use of resources will increase correspondingly or at a greater rate."

Regarding what is probably our most vital natural resource, Luna B. Leopold stresses the need for control areas as free as possible from man-induced alteration.

P. 34:

"It is often stated that water tables are falling, that floods are increasing, that the soil resource is deteriorating, and that much of our irreplaceable topsoil is slipping seaward. As scientists it behooves us to take some interest in these questions, and as scientists to obtain the truest and most objective answers possible. But whether

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Sierra Peaksters Bag Three

Three peaks were bagged by the Sierra Peaksers on Saturday and Sunday, July 9-10. Base camp was at Susie Lake.

A large party climbed Mt. Tallac on Saturday afternoon. Half a dozen started down the ridge for the long, dry traverse to Dick's Peak. Halfway along, two people decided to return to camp. Four, though, completed the traverse and got back to Susie Lake about 7:30 p.m.

Early on Sunday morning a small group of men (ably and attractively dominated by Betsy Bear) cross-countried from Susie Lake to Jabu Creek, where packs were cached. Then with light loads five of them completed the round trip to the summit of Pyramid Peak.

The trip leaders were Chuck Miller and Jim Dodds. Mary Ann Miller said that 25 people showed up for the trip.

The Bay Chapter was represented only by the Doddses and Tom Pillsbury. Los Angeles Chapter and Riverside Chapter were also represented, but the largest group came from the Mother Lode Chapter, the current home base of the Millers.

Those who climbed the peaks — all of them on the qualifying list — considered the weekend a success. But Johnny Dodds, who limited out on both Saturday and Sunday, was sure the fishing was better than the peak-bagging.

—Walter E. Dodds

Leisure at Echo Summit

Many of us are well pleased at the way the leisure knapsacking trips are working out. At our first meeting, it was clear that each person wished to be leisurely in his own fashion. The more leisurely of our group knapsacked up the 3 miles from the end of Echo Lake to Lake of The Woods, with an hour and a half luncheon stopover at Tamarack Lake; then they swam, sunbathed and enjoyed the beauty of the lake and peaks for the rest of the afternoon. Some of the more energetic knapsacked in from The Chalet, other explored the surrounding ridges and streams without the continued burden of their packs. The campfire singing was also leisurely, but well-guided by the now-energetic Carol Pulcifer.

Joe Ferry led the tree and flower hike on Sunday to Lake Aloha. The trees were amazingly lush against the granite peaks and ridges, and the wild flowers were blooming profusely in spots hither and yon. The white-crowned sparrows completed the idyll by singing happily along the lake. Again, some groups made longer hikes to Mosquito Pass or Angora Peak, while the most leisurely shouldered their packs around noon and descended to the boat landing at Echo Lake.

—Elsa Bailey

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If you have ever gone to a large public library seeking books on canoeing you have discovered that while there are many books in this subject classification, only a few of the authors touch rapid running at all and many express the view that a tipover is a cardinal sin.

Those pursuing the sport of canoeing in white water and searching for literature on the subject have, if they were diligent, been able to find a few British, German, French, and Czech things which shed some light. However, because there have been so many innovations in both technique and equipment during the past few years, even these books do not reflect the newer ideas which are bringing changes to white water sport as profound as those which followed introduction of the Arleberg technique to skiing.

It is then a landmark in American canoeing literature to have Ronald Press publish a book which treats in a modern way the running of rapids in canoes and kayaks. Sierra Club member Peter Whitney, after his "discovery" of white water, became an avid devotee and having an analytical turn of mind, dug deeply into the "whys" of the sport. His newspaper writing career provided unusual opportunities to view at first hand and to photograph the performances of expert Europeans as well as of outstanding paddlers in several sections of the United States.

Single blade paddles and the kneeling position employed by a paddler in the Canadian canoe lead to equipment design and technique which is distinct and different from that employed by the bottom-sitting-on-kayakist with his double blade paddle. After treating these separate features, the author proceeds to show that these two types are now borrowing from each other and that it is this interchange which has contributed so many recent innovations.

White-Water Sport is must reading for anyone even mildly interested in travel on moving water. It contains 96 illustrations The fine representative collection of photographs was carefully chosen to illustrate important aspects of moving water and equipment features. The price at any bookstore is only $4.00. —Bruce Grant

Gourmet (cont.)

Clam Chowder: Prepackage 2 tablespoons each of dehydrated tomato, onion, and celery flakes with 1/2 cup dehydrated diced potato, 3/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Pack with one 7-oz. can minced clams and 7 tablespoons non-fat dry milk.

In camp pour the vegetables and seasonings into 2 1/2 cups water and simmer 30 minutes. Chop up a little bacon, if it's available, fry crisp and drain. Mix the powdered milk with 1 1/2 cups water and add to the vegetables, along with the bacon and clams. Reheat and eat with crackers or toast. —Ann Rogers

Wilderness (cont)

one approaches these problems as a citizen or as a scientist, he immediately faces the fact that answers to these questions must be stated relative to some standard base or datum. What are you going to compare against? Is the standard or datum itself a fluctuating one? Can we possibly agree on a reference point? If each person who tackles such a question uses a different reference for comparison, it is quite obvious that all the answers will be different."

Darling, P. 97:

"The value of wilderness to science, put baldly—very baldly, and not at all sentimentally—is the provision of study areas of pristine conditions. . . . Any eco-system represents a complex of conversion cycles, of energy flow. The elucidation of these means an understanding of what I would call the "physiology of community," which we urgently need for the proper planning of land use in a world of shrinking acreage and growing human populations.

Under the heading of Ecological Islands as Natural Laboratories presented by Stanley A. Cain, the editor comments:

"The focus of this paper is interpretation—one of the most important functions of wildlands administrators. Dr. Cain asserts that by explaining the fascinating complexities of wilderness to the public, such agencies as the National Park Service can increase public appreciation and enjoyment of the wilds and so spread the conservation spirit. The knowledge requisite for effective interpretation must be gathered through research programs substantial enough to expand valuably the ecological and biological sciences themselves. It is important that administrators set for themselves these two goals: scientific research and public information."

This well illustrated book is one to own and study and one to loan to those who may require a somewhat more reasonable reason for saving the little remaining wilderness. There will never be any more.

—Frances Scott

Schedule Supplement

AUGUST 13-14: CAR CAMPING.
Sly Park Dam, located off highway #50 near Pollock Pines in El Dorado County. Swimming, fishing, and boating. Leader: DON CROXTON. Call coordinator, TOM MOHLER, BAyview 1-2738, for details.

AUGUST 20-21: KNAPSACKING.
Five Lakes. The Winter Olympics are over long ago and the snow has gone away, but the new highway to Squaw Valley is ready for our using. We hope to make a loop with a short car shuttle. We'll camp near one of the Five Lakes at the very crest of the Sierra. However, the crest is gentle in this area and we'll hike 4 miles each day with 1400 feet of climb (it's all down hill the second day). This trip is ideal for beginners. There'll be time for an easy climb up Squaw Peak or KT-22 for still better views. Call leader BOB HACKAMACK for transportation and information about equipment.

AUGUST 20-21: JUNIOR'S KNAPSACK TRIP. YOSEMITE—Drive to Yosemite Friday evening, August 19, for a knapsack trip six miles each way. All Juniors from both sides of the Bay are invited. To offer or obtain a ride call Dave Adam in Berkeley, LAndscape 4-6325, or Annalie Zach in San Francisco, MOntrose 4-5451. Adult leader is Anita Suran.

SEPTEMBER 24: NATURAL SCIENCE SECTION BIRTHDAY PARTY. Dinner and program will be held at Lake Temescal Clubhouse, Oakland. Our speaker will be Dr. Harold Bradley who will tell of "Prospecting for National Parks in Thailand". Dinner $3.00. Reservations with checks payable to Myra J. Browne by September 20. Dinner at 6:30.

AUGUST 15 & 22: YODELER WORK NIGHTS
Come along—we need you. Mills Tower, 8 p.m.

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